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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ellis-Schindler House
other names/site number Ellis, Robert, House

2. Location

street & number 900 Lincolnway West N/A not for publication
city, town Mishawaka N/A vicinity
state IN code IN county St. Joseph code 141 zip code 46544

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. _____
- See continuation sheet. _____
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. _____
- determined not eligible for the National Register. _____
- removed from the National Register. _____
- other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
HEALTH CARE: medical business/
office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls WOOD: weatherboard

roof WOOD: shingle
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Ellis-Schindler House is the oldest known existing structure in the City of Mishawaka. Built in 1834, it was moved from its original site, 707 Lincolnway West, to its present location, 900 Lincolnway West, and the exterior restored to its original condition in 1979. The new site is coincidentally the oldest platted section in Mishawaka, being a part of the Colonel John Smith Addition of the Ohio land grant. Its features include brick walks, a stone drive, raised planting beds near the building and ornamental trees, shrubs and ground cover to complete the setting. An old Victorian fence is being placed around the garden.

The Ellis-Schindler House is a fine example of the Greek Revival style, employing proportion and details of the Doric Order, especially in the entablature. Typical of this style and incorporated in this house are engaged columns flanking the entrance, a shouldered architrave over doors and windows, an ordered entablature and attic windows in an enlarged frieze. The structure itself is rectangular in shape, one and one-half stories with a gabled roof running front to rear. It has wood clapboard siding, vertical cornerboards, wood trim and wood roof shingles resembling the original.

The main facade is dominated by a heavy raking entablature and a recessed front entry porch. The entablature consists of a projecting cornice, a large flat frieze board capped by a row of dentils, and a two row architrave separated from the frieze by continuous regulae. The recessed porch, offset to the left, is crowned by architrave of similar detail as the entablature and supported by paneled pilasters. The pilasters are adorned with carved ornaments resembling stylized honeysuckle leaves at the top and bottom, with a stepped capital and simple base. The columns are repeated at the inside corners of the recess, framing the entry. Above the door is a transom bar and leaded glass transom light. The transom bar is supported by an accouplement of fluted pilasters on each side. The molding around the transom light and the interior porch walls at the ceiling is a series of squares, each square having a pyramidal relief. This molding pattern also surrounds the large second story front gable window, which appears to be original. Set to the right of the entry are two six-over-six wood double wing sash windows with simple architrave headers.

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The sides of the structure are simply adorned, with sets of first story windows similar to the pair in front. There are two windows on the east facade, both offset to the north (right). The west facade has four symmetrically placed windows. The entablature, with its cornice, dentils, frieze, regulae and architrave pattern similar to the front facade, runs the length of each side and returns four feet around each corner of the front facade. Situated in the frieze board are narrow attic windows, three on each side.

The rear of the structure is even less adorned with no decoration of any consequence. A twelve foot addition, running the full width of the house with a shed roof sloping back to it, was constructed at the time of the move. A single second story window was cut into the original structure, next to an existing double window.

In 1979, a substantial rehabilitation was undertaken which included moving the house. On its original site, the house was closely hemmed in by later houses. The new site is about one block west on the opposite side of the same street (see map). Prior to the move, the house had a c.1920 Bungalow style porch and a later rear room addition. These were removed and discarded. The house was placed on a new concrete foundation detailed so that original foundation brick could be veneered to the exterior. All clapboard siding was removed so that rigid insulation could be installed. About 40% of the siding was replaced in kind, the rest was reinstalled. Windows were rehabilitated. Missing details, such as the refined ornamentation on the entry pilasters, were indicated by paint layers. These details were replaced. To the rear, a new addition was placed.

The interior has been modified to accommodate its new use as an optometrist's office (see plan). A center hall was introduced, along with a back hall running the width of the building. A lower ceiling was added on the first floor to house new HVAC lines (photo 10). This tin ceiling was salvaged from old buildings which were located in downtown Mishawaka.

Still intact on the first floor are the front parlor window surrounds (photo 12). The surrounds are shouldered and consist of fluted boards and corner blocks carved with Greek drama mask motifs. These windows have paneled shutter blinds as do all windows in the house. Below these windows are kick panels. Simple baseboards remain in the parlor. Old wood flooring remains in the house.

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Pine, Poplar, and oak floors are found in the house. Some have been carpeted, hallways have refinished floors, and on the second floor, the wood floor was painted.

The second floor has a small apartment with one bedroom. No alterations were undertaken on this level.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1834

Significant Dates

1834

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Ellis-Schindler House, 1834, is significant under Criterion C as an outstanding example of the Greek Revival style. It is one of few high-style examples of this mode left in St. Joseph County, and one of only two Greek Revival style buildings in Mishawaka. It is also the oldest known building in the town. The house was moved in 1979, but due to its architectural importance, the Ellis-Schindler House satisfies Criterion Consideration B.

The Ellis-Schindler House is unusual for its bold classical detail. The diamond-rusticated moldings, use of heavy entablatures, and refined honeysuckle leaf ornamentation are not often found on Greek Revival homes of this scale and they suggest a pattern book source.

The house was built by Robert Ellis in 1834. Ellis was an undertaker. The Ellis family owned the house until 1872 when the property was sold to John J. Schindler who also owned the neighboring property at 703 Lincolnway West. John Schindler owned the property until 1915 when ownership passed to his son Aloysius J. Schindler. At the time of A. J. Schindler's death in February 1960, the property was sold to Kenneth Coddins who still owns the properties at 703 and 707 Lincolnway West. Dr. and Mrs. Speiser purchased the house and moved it in 1979.

John J. Schindler was born in February 1851, in Buffalo, New York, of German immigrant parents. The family relocated to Mishawaka in 1869, five (5) years after John J. came to Mishawaka to work at the St. Joseph Flouring Mills which were owned by his uncles. His father established a grocery and a hotel business which John J. inherited at the time of his father's death in 1872. In 1872, John J. Schindler began an insurance business which still continues today. He also served Mishawaka as a notary public, a township trustee from 1888-1892, an attorney in the Department of Interior Bureau of Pensions from 1890-1894 and Secretary of the County Board of Education, as well as an organizer of township libraries in district schools. Mr. Schindler was also a director of the First National Bank of Mishawaka, Vice

See continuation sheet

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President of the First Trust and Savings Company, a director of Mishawaka Trust and Savings Company, a director of Beiger Realty Company, member of the City Council and Secretary of the Public Utility Company.

In total, the Schindler family owned the property at 707 Lincolnway West from 1872 until 1960 - a period of eighty-eight (88) years.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Anderson & Cooley. South Bend and the Men Who Have Made It.
South Bend: The Tribune Printing Co., 1901.

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Elkhart and St. Joseph
Counties. Chicago: Goodspeed Brothers, 1893.

An Illustrated Historical Atlas of St. Joseph County, Indiana.
Chicago: Higgins, Belden, & Co., 1875.

Howard, Timothy Edward. A History of St. Joseph County. Chicago:
Lewis Publishing Co., 1907.

Peat, Wilbur D. Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century.
Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1969.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures INventory

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	6	5	6	7	3	0	0	4	6	1	2	2	1	5
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot Number 8 in John Smith's Second Addition to Mishawaka, Indiana, along with that portion of the vacated alley immediately adjoining to the north of said lot.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the legal description of the present address of the Ellis-Schindler House.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Phil Cartwright
organization LeRoy Troyer & Associates date 9/17/90
street & number 415 Lincolnway East telephone 219/259-9976
city or town Mishawaka state IN zip code 46544